And not a man of them that we shall take,
Shall taste our mercy :—Go, and tell them so.

transposition might easily happen in copies written for the players. Yet it must not be concealed, that in the imperfect play of 1608 the order of the scenes is the same as here. JOHNSON.

[1] The difference of the two copies may be thus accounted for. The elder was, perhaps, taken down, during the representation, by the contrivance of some bookseller, who was in haste to publish it: or it might, with equal probability, have been collected from the repetitions of actors invited to a tavern for that purpose. The manner in which many of the scenes are printed, adds strength to the supposition: for in these a single line is generally divided into two, that the quantity of the play might be seemingly increased. The second and more ample edition (in the folio 1623) may be that which regularly belonged to the playhouse: and yet with equal confidence we may pronounce, that every dramatick composition would materially suffer, if only transmitted to the public through the medium of ignorance, presumption, and caprice, those common attendants on a theatre. STEEVENS.

Johnson's long note on this passage is owing to his inattention. The prisoners whom the King had already put to death, were those which were taken in the first action : and those whom he had now in his power, and threatens to destroy, are the prisoners that were taken in the subsequent desperate charge made by Bourbon, Orleans, &c. And accordingly we find, in the next scene but one, an account of those prisoners, amounting to upwards of 1500, with Bourbon and Orleans at the head of the list. It was this second attack that compelled the King to kill the prisoners whom he had taken in the first. M. MASON.

The order of the scenes is the same (as Dr. Johnson owns) in the quarto and the folio ; and the supposition of a *second* draught is, I am persuaded, a mistake, originating from Mr. Pope, whose researches on these subjects were by no means profound. The quarto copy of this play is manifestly an imperfect transcript procured by some fraud, and not a first draught or hasty sketch of Shakspeare's. The choruses, which are wanting in it, and which must have been written in 1599, before the quarto

was printed, prove this. Yet Mr. Pope asserts, that these choruses, and all the other passages not found in the quarto, were *added* by the author after the year 1600:

With respect however to the incongruity objected to, if it be one, Holinshed, and not our poet, is answerable for it: for thus the matter is stated by him. While the battle was yet going on, about six hundred French horsemen, who were the first that had fled, hearing that the English tents were a good way distant from the army,, without a sufficient guard, entered and